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PENN PAL SCARLETT AND SEAN STEP OUT DISH

{page 13}



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EDMONTON

metro

Wednesday, March 23, 2011
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News worth sharing.

Origami. Cranes



► Laura Cadrain, left, and Andrew Lai help make paper cranes at the University of Alberta's Pembina Hall yesterday.

HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

Giving hope, one fold at a time

The Japanese Association of Graduate Students at the University of Alberta, along with the Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research, recruited volunteers yesterday to make origami cranes to give away to those who make donations to Red Cross boxes that can be found around campus.

Federal budget

Parties not impressed by goodies

► Opposition rejects finance minister's loot bag of give and take ► Spring election is all but a certainty ► Good news: Deficit receding faster than expected {pages 6 & 9}

Sweeping into Regina

City to host world men's curling championship in April {page 14}

No fare, city gets tab

Council mulls options to stem transit cheating {page 3}

Dogs likely sick from toxin: Vet

► Four dogs treated at Crestwood clinic last week after Buena Vista dog trips ► At least one dog ate something off the ground before getting sick: Vet

A vet has confirmed four dogs that visited the Buena Vista off-leash park and then fell ill were treated for symptoms consistent with ingesting a toxin.

Just what that toxin might be is still unknown.

"I have treated them all the same, as though treating for an unknown toxin," said Dr. Todd Scott of the Crestwood Veterinary Clinic, where four canines were brought last week after being to the park, showing symptoms from vomiting to neurological distress.

While all the dogs are on the mend, the vet said the neurological symptoms in three of the cases is concerning.

"It seems a bit weird to get four in a week," said Scott, adding the effects could be consistent with ingesting a drug, like marijuana or hashish.

Dog owner Sue De Mone is convinced the answers lie with a piece of meat ripped from a fellow dog owner's mouth last week while she was at the park.

De Mone has been trying to sniff out a lab willing to test the meat for poison.

She said she wants to know if it has been laced with anything so owners could treat their dogs accordingly if they develop symptoms following future dog park visits.

Scott said testing is costly and complicated.

"What do I test the meat for? The tests can cost hundreds to several thousands," said Scott, adding the clinic out-sources most lab work to Ontario.

► SHELLEY WILLIAMSON

Police response

► EPS said yesterday they are not investigating any poisoning allegations at the dog park.

Home remedy

► A home remedy vets suggest for suspected ingestion of a toxin by pets is to give hydrogen peroxide orally to induce vomiting.

► Sue De Mone tries to keep a piece of meat found in an off-leash park from her dogs Kenny, left, and Sammy.



SHELLEY WILLIAMSON/METRO

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Is the price right for Lucy?

Former television game show host Bob Barker says he's willing to put up \$100,000 to make sure the Edmonton Valley Zoo's lone elephant gets another checkup.

A veterinary specialist hired by the city said earlier this month that Lucy is generally in better health but still has breathing problems that make it too dangerous to move her.

Barker would like elephant experts selected by Zoocheck Canada and Performing Animal Welfare Society to examine Lucy, who is in her mid-30s.

He says the city could use his \$100,000 in any way it wished.

The fight to move Lucy has also been taken up by actor William Shatner and former NHL player Georges Laraque, who also offered \$100,000 to the city.

An appeal is still to be heard of a judge's decision last summer to dismiss arguments by PETA and Zoocheck that Lucy should be moved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Twitchell used film as plan: Crown

It was called House of Cards, a short film about a philandering man dismembered for his sins, but prosecutors say the seven-minute gorefest was actually Mark Twitchell's dress rehearsal for a murder.

Twitchell, 32, is on trial in Court of Queen's Bench in the death of Johnny Altinger on Oct. 10, 2008. The prosecution says it will prove that a week after Twitchell and his buddies made House of Cards in a rented garage, he carried out the same scenario for real. THE CANADIAN PRESS



► While nearly 96 per cent of Edmonton transit users pay for their rides, the ones that don't cost the city millions in revenue annually.

Fare cheats cost city millions

► Council committee supports \$1M for 10 more transit peace officers to be in place by July 1 ► Report wanted on alternatives to adding officers in future



HEATHER MCINTYRE
@METRONEWS.CA

There will likely be more peace officers patrolling Edmonton Transit this summer, but the city is looking at alternative ways to combat those who don't pay for a ride.

Fare evasions cost the city up to \$9.4 million last year, with 4.5 per cent of the 76.3 million rides taken for free, said transportation manager Charlie Stolte.

For Coun. Karen Lei-

bovici, more bodies isn't the only answer, suggesting turnstiles be installed at all LRT stations.

"We could deploy (officers) differently if they didn't have to worry about fare evasion," she said.

"They could concentrate on different kinds of mischief."

Last year officers issued 9,139 fare evasion tickets, up from the 5,008 given out in 2009.

"If you consider the design and open concept (of LRT stations), I'm not sure it will mitigate issues,"

said Ron Gabruck, transit's director of safety and security.

Leibovici disagreed, saying there could be a reduction in the future since turnstiles don't have to be manned.

Stolte said a report would come forward in October, but that installing turnstiles would include "a large capital component."



For more local news, visit metronews.ca/edmonton

Fare details

Getting caught on Edmonton Transit without paying your fare will cost you \$110.

- 1 There are currently 51 transit peace officers and if city council gives final approval on the \$1 million for another 10, there will be 61.
- 2 According to Calgary Transit, the fare evasion rate in Calgary is about two per cent.

1

news



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Distiller: Booze labels 'the right thing to do'

- ▶ Company to unveil new liquor products with warnings in Alberta
- ▶ Packaging being updated for frozen alcoholic treats, coolers

One distillery has given sober thought to a motion under review in the legislature urging mandated warning labels about the dangers of alcohol on liquor products.

The president of Kelowna's Winterland Beverages — set to tap into the local "adult freezie" market in Alberta in April — said the company wants to be "socially responsible" by incorporating the surgeon general's warnings.

"We have a moral obligation. Even if it only makes a difference for one person, that's enough," said Karen Labossiere.

She said she can understand why other beverage vendors would balk at the proposed changes, since relabelling could be costly. "For us, just coming in-



to it, it just seemed the right thing to do," she said of the labels set to be included on packaging for the wares that include tequila, triple sec and vodka.

Along with warnings against imbibing while pregnant and driving un-

der the influence, the seven per cent alcohol freezies will also feature "not-for-children" messages.

The company will also include warnings on its three per cent low-calorie "lightweight coolers."

● SHELLEY WILLIAMSON

Background

- ▶ Tory MLA Moe Amery made the motion March 7 for the government to impose alcohol warning labels, but an emergency health-care debate this week postponed a vote.
- ▶ Only N.W.T. and Yukon have warning labels on alcohol products in Canada.
- ▶ The U.S. and several other countries, including France, Germany, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, have mandated labelling on alcohol products, while others have voluntary ones.
- ▶ Mandated cigarette package warnings went into effect in 2000 under the Tobacco Act.



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It's the DOA budget

► Flaherty delivered goodies, but with an election looming it's unlikely they'll see the light of day

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty stuffed his budget yesterday with goodies.

They included programs such as a return of the home energy retrofit program, tax credits for caregivers, improved pensions for the poorest seniors, and breaks for tots' art classes and tutoring.

But with the opposition vowing to trigger an election, the likelihood is that none of the measures will see the light of day.

What will survive is the bottom line — the federal government of whatever stripe will have more money to spend or to squirrel away for a rainy day.

"Leadership is about finding a balance between needs," Flaherty told the House of Commons.

New program spending worth \$2.3 billion is largely offset by cuts elsewhere

Personal finance

Single seniors up to \$600 a year; couples \$840 extra.

\$75

\$500 tax credit for arts programs for children saves parents \$75 a year.

\$600

\$300

\$2,000 family caregiver tax credit worth \$300 for caregivers of dependent relatives

Volunteer firefighters tax credit of \$3,000 would save \$450 for 200 hours of service a year.

\$450

as the original, recession-fighting budget of 2009 finally expires.

It's all packaged in a conservative document that forecasts the huge federal deficit receding slightly faster than

predicted, down to \$40.5 billion the year just ending, \$29.6 billion in

2011-12 and virtually eliminated four years from now.

"There's nothing in this budget the opposition parties couldn't vote for," Chisholm Pothier, Flaherty's spokesperson, told a briefing.

How wrong he was.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



What they said

Some quotes in the wake of the federal budget:

- "We find that the priorities of this government are not the priorities of ordinary Canadians," said Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff.
- "Nothing in this budget has persuaded me that Mr. Harper has changed his ways. And that's why the NDP will not support this budget in its current form," said NDP Leader Jack Layton.
- "No tax hikes, no substantial spending cuts. I like that very much," said Steve Goudy, a 59-year-old provincial government retiree living in Fredericton.
- "Stephen Harper clearly has the wrong priorities," said Ken Neumann, a top United Steelworkers exec.
- "Better by the day," said Jack Layton when asked about his health problems.

► "Mr. Harper had an opportunity to address the needs of hard-working middle-class Canadians ... and he missed that opportunity. He just doesn't get it": NDP Leader Jack Layton

Flaherty's fiscal fairy dust is a learning tool

Conservative attack ads may accuse Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff of "just visiting" for his years living overseas.

But the federal budget makes it easier for young Canadians to study abroad.

By sprinkling some fiscal fairy dust, Finance

Minister Jim Flaherty's sixth budget tries to slice off a key plank in a possible Liberal election campaign: Education.

Flaherty offered modest credits that increase exemptions and expand eligibility for Canada Student Loans and Grants by \$34

million a year, and invest \$9 million over two years to increase adult basic education and opportunities in the North.

Flaherty also offered \$10 million in tax relief to Canadian students pursuing post-secondary education abroad.

"As Canadian students seek to develop the skills and knowledge needed to work in a global marketplace, the government recognizes students pursuing the best educational opportunities available to them, whether in Canada or abroad," the budget

says.

Flaherty's budget also contains new spending aimed at luring the best and brightest foreign students to Canada's halls of higher learning.

The budget provides \$10 million over two years to develop "an international

education strategy that will reinforce Canada as a country of choice to study and conduct world-class research." THE CANADIAN PRESS



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The application deadline is **April 15, 2011.**




Canadian pilots abort Libya raid over civilian risk

- U.S. jet crashes, pilots eject, one hides in sheep pen
- Clinton says a Gadhafi son may have been killed

It was just too risky.

Canadian military fighters abandoned an attack on a Libyan airfield and avoided civilian deaths yesterday on their first offensive operation against Moammar Gadhafi since arriving on the weekend.

Defence aide Maj.-Gen. Tom Lawson said the two Canadian pilots and command elements determined the risk of collateral damage was too high.

An American F-15 jet crashed in the rebel-held east, both crew ejecting.

One of the pilots parachuted into a rocky field and hid in a sheep pen on a family farm. The pilot left in a car, taking with

Battles rage

- Moammar Gadhafi's forces shelled rebels in the dunes outside Ajdabiya, a city of 140,000 that is the gateway to the east.
- Misrata, Libya's third-largest city, was being bombarded by Gadhafi's forces, his tanks and snipers controlling the streets.
- Civilians in Misrata were surviving on dwindling supplies of food and water.

him water and juice the family provided.

The second pilot was picked up by a helicopter.

Other developments:

- One of Gadhafi's sons may have been killed, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told ABC News. She cited unconfirmed reports and did not say which son she meant.

- The Dutch will deploy six F-16 fighter jets, a refuelling plane and a minesweeper in the Libya operation.

- Gadhafi appeared before a crowd in Tripoli, pledging victory.

- President Barack Obama said he has no doubt the U.S. will be able to transfer control of the Libya operation to an international coalition within days. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Republic of Congo. 19 killed



► The Antonov 32's tail stands as a stark monument to disaster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plane crash shocks neighbourhood

At least 19 people were killed and many more wounded when a cargo plane crashed in a densely populated neighbourhood of Pointe-Noire, the economic capital of the Republic of Congo, officials said. The Antonov 32 buried several houses in debris. The pilot was able to escape from the cockpit.

2 Two past winners of the award include former president Gerald Ford and former UN secretary general Kofi Annan. Kennedy's family created the honour.

His courage hailed

Wael Ghonim, a Google executive who launched a Facebook page that sparked protests in Egypt that led to the ouster of

President Hosni Mubarak, is to receive the annual John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

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Middleton to ride to altar in Rolls-Royce

► Prince Charles' press office says the procession will have five horse-drawn carriages

Kate Middleton will be swept off to her April 29 wedding at Westminster Abbey in a distinctive 1997 Rolls-Royce Phantom VI, and will return to Buckingham Palace in a 1902 horse-drawn carriage.

The distinctive claret-and-black Rolls-Royce, which was vandalized in December when Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, were attacked by student protesters, will have its paintwork and



windows repaired by the royal wedding day, officials

said yesterday.

The car was damaged Dec. 9 as a mob protesting student fee hikes hit the car with sticks and bottles.

"There was paint damage and damage to the glass," said Alex Garty, transport manager at Buckingham Palace. "The repairs are ongoing. We're using that opportunity to give her a 60-minute makeover, so she will look her best for the wedding."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Worn out. Kicks



► Sterling Brinkerhoff, 9, of Benjamin, Utah, poses with his winning pair of rotten sneakers in the annual Odor-Eaters Rotten Sneaker Contest yesterday in Montpelier, Vt.

TOBY TALBOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Let the smelliest sneaker win

The competitors at the Odor-Eaters Rotten Sneaker Contest had their sneakers judged on the condition of the sole, tongue, heel, toe, laces, eyelets and reek.

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CONSUMER NON-CONFIDENCE

Retail sales fall flat

Canadian retail sales fell unexpectedly in January, thanks primarily to a drop in new car sales, prompting economists to suggest that the Bank of Canada will take its time raising interest rates.

Retail sales fell for the second month in a row to 0.3 per cent or \$37.1 billion, Statistics Canada said yesterday — much lower than economists' expectations of a one per cent increase.

The auto industry had the greatest impact on

overall numbers, with car sales dropping 1.7 per cent for the second consecutive month after seven months of gains. Gasoline sales also fell 1.4 per cent, the first decline since June.

Outside of the auto industry, sales were also flat. Seven out of 11 sectors reported selling less, but food, building-supply, sporting-goods and department stores reported gains.

Peter Buchanan, senior economist at CIBC World Markets, said the lower spending together with the weaker core inflation rate of 0.9 per cent released last week mean the Bank of Canada time could put off interest-rate hikes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big breaks for small business in budget

► Credits would offset employment insurance, cost of new equipment

Small business got a boost in yesterday's federal budget with a break on employment-insurance premiums and an extension of a program to buy new equipment. However, with the combined opposition saying they'll vote down the document, the proposal is moot.

The budget measures are in addition to the billions in corporate tax cuts already announced that Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has defended as a cornerstone of the economic recovery plan.

Small business would receive a credit worth up to \$1,000 to offset increases in employment-insurance premiums. The one-time credit, which would affect about 525,000 small businesses, would offset the increase in pre-

"We will keep taxes low, while taking action to close unfair tax loopholes."

JIM FLAHERTY, FINANCE MINISTER

miums this year.

Flaherty also extended to 2014 a program that allows companies to write off the cost of new equipment in two years, faster than normally allowed.

However, corporate Canada would pay more in some areas. Changes in the way partnerships work that allowed for the deferral of corporate tax, along with changes in the rules governing the way dividends are paid between corporations would have brought in hundreds of millions of dollars for the government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► A digital meter flashes on at Atomic Energy Canada Limited's plant in Chalk River, Ont. Yesterday's federal budget would give the Crown corporation \$405 million in its 2011-12 fiscal year to help with restructuring.

Market moment

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A SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE FOR ASSANGE

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN



It's funny how life works.

For many of us, the idea of "destiny" is quaint, old-fashioned, from a time when the gods could not resist meddling in the lives of individuals.

Now science has taught us that instead of being predestined by the Fates, stuff just happens. The universe is a cold, random place, and we're just lucky (or unlucky, depending on your point of view) bits of organized carbon.

But if that's the case, what's with Julian Assange and Scandinavia?

Consider the facts. Assange is the founder of WikiLeaks and has upset the global apple cart by leaking scads of U.S. State Department memos setting off

scandals in virtually every world capital.

The lineup of leaders who would cheerfully strangle Assange forms over there on the left, but for some strange reason, his next destination appears to be Sweden, where he faces murky sexual assault charges. "Murky" because there appears to be a strong possibility that the sex in question was consensual and

Assange may be the victim of his own personality, as in he's a cad. Assange is, of course, Australian, which is nowhere near Sweden. And his beef is with the U.S. State Department, which usually has little or nothing to do with Sweden.

Meanwhile, he's holed up in the U.K., trying not to be extradited to Sweden, mainly because he's afraid Sweden will hand him over to the U.S.

"Now science has taught us that instead of being predestined by the Fates, stuff just happens."

Complicated. While he's in the U.K. awaiting the appeal of the Swedish extradition order, he has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. If he wins that, to accept his prize, he will have to go to ... Scandinavia! Oslo, Norway, to be precise, which is right next door to Sweden.

So, in a strange twist of what can only be called fate, Assange could either be incarcerated in Scandinavia as the lowest of the

low, a sex criminal, or exalted in Scandinavia as the highest of the high, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, alongside Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

Either this guy was a salmon in a previous life and is somehow pining for the fjords of his fingerling days, or his ridiculously fascinating life has prompted the gods out of retirement and they have arranged a good old-fashioned Norse saga to rival Beowulf.

After all, Assange is a little like Beowulf, but instead of Grendel, he has the U.S. government by the tail. Don't know about you, but I'd rather take my chances with Grendel.



Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsayin

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADLER



Playing the Trump card

Worth mentioning

There's the blowhard billionaire. The "good ole boy" from the Deep South. The ever-maligned former Alaska governor. Another one-time governor whose action-movie-esque promotional ad has spurred guffaws, not respect. And a onetime congressional guiding light whose adulterous past still haunts him.

The Republican race for the 2012 presidential nomination hasn't officially begun yet, but if all the wannabe commanders-in-chief considering taking on U.S. President Barack Obama do throw their hats in the ring, the battle for the White House could be the most entertaining in years.

A recent poll by the Wall Street Journal and NBC

You're ... hired?



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

suggests Donald Trump — yes, Donald Trump — has a higher approval rating than two of his would-be rivals, Mitt Romney and Tim Pawlenty. Trump, the star of *The Apprentice*, is pondering a run.

If he does decide to run, he could face challengers that rival him in the fame department, including Sarah Palin, the former

Alaska governor who recently told Israel to "stop apologizing" so much, and Newt Gingrich, the one-time speaker of the House of Representatives who hounded former president Bill Clinton about his affair with a White House intern while he himself was involved in an adulterous romance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Are U.S. politics more entertaining than Canadian politics? Why?

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Metro Minute with climate change

What better way to spend the noon hour than filling up on climate-change news?

The city launches its environmental speaker series today at 12:10 p.m. with Don MacDonald, a Grant MacEwan University earth sciences professor.

Attendees to the University of Alberta Enterprise Square lecture (No. 2, 957,

10230 Jasper Ave.) will learn what is going on with the environment as it relates to Edmonton and some steps ordinary citizens can take.

For more information about the month-long lecture series, part of the city's The Way We Green strategic planning, visit www.edmonton.ca.

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► Learn how climate change will directly affect Edmonton today during the noon hour.

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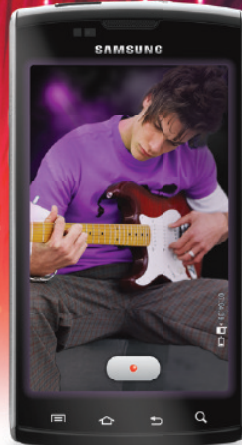
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2 scene

Walk of Fame



Bryan Adams is now enshrined in concrete.

The Canadian singer, songwriter, guitarist, bassist and producer got his Hollywood Walk of Fame star Monday in front of the Musicians Institute.

Adams recalled visiting Hollywood Boulevard at 16 and marveling at the stars. He said he was humbled by seeing his own star.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ralph Macchio on top, Mike Catherwood finishes last as Dancing begins its 12th season

Fighting the good fight



► Zack Snyder, director of *Watchmen* and the new *Sucker Punch*, takes on the studio system with a film based on his own idea ► But it wasn't easy bringing his vision to the big screen



SCENE@METRONWS.CA

With *Sucker Punch*, visually inventive director Zack Snyder (300, *Watchmen*) presents his first film based on his own original idea — and original is putting it lightly.

The film follows a group of girls trapped in an insane asylum who use their imaginations to escape their dark reality, transporting themselves to fiery, bullet-ridden battlefields where they dispatch enemies with stunt-filled fury.

But Snyder admits it wasn't easy to bring his vision to the screen. He spoke to Metro about his

influences, not going 3-D and fights with the studio.

You make original movies. Do you ever get much interference from the studio?

Oh yeah. That's the danger. They have preconceived ideas about what a good movie is or what you should be doing, and I think that in the end you really just have to be true to yourself. I feel like this movie pushes the envelope in all of its facets. You know, it's a female cast, it's got a complicated structure that's difficult. It has a dark ending that's not necessarily what they would've hoped for. Trust me, they did not like the

ending. You just have to fight the fight.

How does having your wife, Deborah Snyder, as your producing partner help?

Those exact fights are the fights that she has every day to make sure the movie stays the movie I want to make. She really fights that fight.

You made *Sucker Punch* while also completing *Legends of the Guardians*. How did the two differ?

I wish *Rango* had come out before *Guardians* because when you see *Rango* you realize that they didn't give a s— about the kids at all and they just made a

cool movie.

We had that potential, I think, with *Guardians*, but everyone just said, "No, no, no, you can't do that. You've got to make a children's film." And so I got into a big fight with the studio because I just wanted to make an adventure movie with owls in it. But they were like, "No, no. You've got to soften it so that parents don't freak out." But I had a great experience with it. It was a good film.

Was there talk about making *Sucker Punch* 3-D?

Yeah, absolutely ... I've seen some great conversation stuff. This Korean

company that was going to do it for *Sucker Punch* did a conversion of a five-minute sequence of 300 that was amazing, and I was like, "Wow. If they can do that level, maybe we can do something cool."

But to do it over the course of a whole movie is just not that easy. It's a bigger deal than the studios realize. And I think that the field is going to be leveled soon by cost versus return. Because nobody knows. Right now the studios are just spending millions and millions of dollars to make a 3-D movie — like, \$30 million more than it would cost to make a 2-D movie.



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Renee got tired of waiting for a ring?

► Friends say that's the reason she broke up with Bradley Cooper

Renee Zellweger and Bradley Cooper's two-year romance may have come to an end because Zellweger got tired of waiting for an engagement ring, sources tell Popeater.

"We all thought for sure they were going to be together forever after they moved in together last fall," a friend of Zellweger

says. "But after that she wanted a ring, and he just wasn't ready to propose." Both have been married before, though, and neither ended well. "Renee was ready to give it another try with Bradley," the friend says. "She's 41 and has an Oscar. She's starting to think about children and settling down." **● METRO**



► Renee Zellweger



► Bradley Cooper

Lohan's mom: 'My children don't steal'

Lindsay Lohan is due in court Friday to enter a plea in her latest court battle, this one over a \$2,500 necklace she allegedly stole — and her mom, Dina Lohan, says Lindsay may plead no contest.

"Obviously she's not pleading guilty. My children don't steal things. But the system is so strange out in Los Angeles. We're considering a couple of options and just want to get



► Lindsay Lohan

this over with in the shortest amount of time," Dina tells the New York Daily News.

But Dina insists, no matter what the plea, her daughter is innocent. "She was clearly loaned the necklace," she says. "And it should already be down to a misdemeanor because the necklace wasn't worth anywhere near what they claimed."

● METRO

Is Sean Penn seeing Scarlett?

Sean Penn's rumored romance with Scarlett Johansson appears to be heating up, as the couple were spotted out again, this time at a dinner with friends in West Hollywood, according to People magazine. "They were smiles all night and seemed to have a great time

together. Scarlett and Sean sat very closely and exchanged flirty looks," a source says. "Scarlett acted very intrigued by him. She would smile, nod her head and just listen to his stories."



Scarlett Johansson

Chris Brown loses it after questions about Rihanna

Chris Brown trashed his dressing room at Good Morning America and broke a window with a chair Tuesday after co-host Robin Roberts asked him about his attack on Rihanna, according to a person familiar with the show.

The person was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity. Security was called, but not police.

Brown was on the CBS morning show Tuesday to promote his new album, F.A.M.E., released the same day. During his interview with Roberts, she

asked him about the 2009 attack on his then-girlfriend.

A clearly agitated Brown tried to deflect the line of questioning, saying he was past that and wanted

to focus on his new CD. But after the interview he went to his dressing room and started smashing things, according to the source.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Chris Brown

Talking points

Sheen may be back: Exec

PEOPLE. Charlie Sheen's departure from Two and a Half Men will be a temporary one, at least if Les Moonves has anything to say about it.

The top CBS executive is reportedly heading up negotiations to get the high-profile star back on the show, according to Radar Online.

"Moonves wants to get the show back on the air. He's all for it," a source says.

"He says certain people need to forget anything and everything Charlie's done recently and just move on with the business at hand."

● METRO

Pregnant Posh ponders what to wear

ROYAL WEDDING. Everyone is gearing up for Prince William's big wedding to Kate Middleton next month, but the event reportedly has Victoria Beckham on edge, according to her husband, David Beckham.

So what's causing her all the anxiety? It's what to wear to the ceremony.

"Victoria is obviously a little bit worried because she'll be a few more months pregnant by then," David says, according to Hollycoop.

● METRO

Celebrity tweets

Ryan Seacrest
[@RyanSeacrest] who saw limitless?? Insanely good movie. Had to add Bradley Cooper into my bromantic circle of guys

Frankie Muniz
[@frankiemuniz] I just read that Ricki Lake may be coming back with a new talk show in 2012... all I can say is HELL YEAH.

Joel McHale
[@joelmchale] Me to my 3yr old son, "I love you." My 3yr old's response back to me, "Thank you."

Nathan Fillion
[@NathanFillion] Where there's smoke, there's fire. (Unless you are using Fireless Smoke.) **● METRO**

Lohan's dad arrested

LEGAL. Lindsay Lohan's father, Michael Lohan, has been arrested after his girlfriend filed a report accusing him of domestic violence, according to TMZ. The report also states the girlfriend had marks on her arm from an alleged altercation. Lohan was picked up by representatives from the L.A. Sheriff's office and taken into custody. His rep had yet to comment. **● METRO**

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Travel in brief



Via Rail is adding two sites to its Garden Route for 2011: Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens in Nova Scotia.

Now in its sixth year, the Garden Route promotes major horticultural attractions across the country. There are a total of 19 gardens on the route, from Butchart Gardens near Victoria, B.C., to Halifax Public Gardens in Nova Scotia.

Trains on the route include Montreal-Halifax, Quebec City-Windsor, Toronto-Niagara Falls and Toronto-Vancouver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Tour of Shanghai's Jewish history tells story of WWII refugees, crowded ghetto



TROY FLEECE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

► A display inside the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Regina, Sask. Regina will host the 2011 world men's curling championship next month and will welcome the world's top male curlers, as well as their fans, who will visit the city during the event, which takes place April 2 to 10.

Hurry hard to curling worlds in Regina

► Organizers expect a loud crowd at the men's world curling championship in Saskatchewan ► Go support Canada's team skipped by Jeff Stoughton

Saskatchewan is about to be swept away by curling and is ready to welcome those who want to ride the broom.

Regina will host the 2011 world men's curling championship next month and is expecting thousands of fans along with the world's top male curlers, their families, officials, coaches and media. Derek Boe, chairman of the local organizing committee, says curling fans traditionally have been a quiet crowd but that's changing.

"Kind of what we no-

ticed happening, mostly at Olympics this year out in Vancouver, was that things got rocking and rolling pretty good and the curlers loved it," said Boe, president of Curl Regina. "It is becoming a bit more of a raucous crowd and more enthusiastic and more lively and spirited."

Boe also notes that curling is Saskatchewan's official sport. There's no better place for visitors to brush up on curling lore than the Saskatchewan Sports of Hall of Fame and Museum in Regina.

"You've got lots of big names from Saskatchewan curling and they're all represented with their team," says Sheila Kelly, the hall's executive director.

Among those honoured in the hall is Regina's Ernie Richardson — the only male curler in history to skip a team to four world titles.

There are medals and memorabilia from Sandra Schmirler. "Schmirler the Curler," as she was known, skipped her team to three Canadian titles, three world titles and a gold medal at

the 1998 Winter Olympics. She died of cancer in 2000.

And then there's the Grand Transoceanic Match — a funspiel for spectators that started in the '70s as a way for curling fans to get to know each other on the ice.

"They're just amateurs that enjoy curling," said Boe. "They're just kind of established this tradition of going and attending the World Championships and said 'Jeez, wouldn't it be fun if while we were there we staged a little match.'"

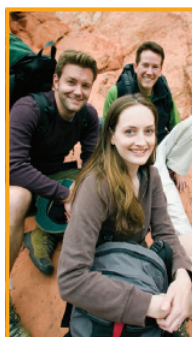
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If you go ...

► **Worlds.** The 2011 Ford World Men's Curling Championship will be held at Evraz Place. Ticket and draw schedule information can be found at curling.ca/championships/worlds.

► **Hall of Fame.** The Saskatchewan Sports of Hall of Fame and Museum is located at 2205 Victoria Ave. Admission is free. More information can be found at sshfm.com.

► **Funspiel.** The Grand Transoceanic Match will be held April 8 at the Caledonian Curling Club, known locally as the Callie.



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EVELYN HANNON
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I recently visited the Caribbean Island of Grenada to test its female-friendliness. It's such a lovely corner of the world and

under the right circumstances it is alarmingly romantic.

I travelled there with a group of travel writers and decided to look at this little piece of paradise from two different angles — wedding and honeymoon destination, and a getaway for a single female looking for some rest, relaxation

and fun in the sun.

I divided my time between the Spice Island Beach Resort, an elegant boutique hideaway and then went on to La Source, a first-class, all inclusive holiday experience. Each stay was three days.

The first at Spice Island was so romantic I contemplated marrying one of the

other travel writers whom I had just met that morning.

The second spot, La Source, was so full of endless activity and new people to meet I gave my original wedding plan up as a bad idea.

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Thank you, Dr. Bob!



Dr. Bob inspired me that we must all be accountable in supporting quality of life for all citizens of Edmonton.
Bev Park, Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre



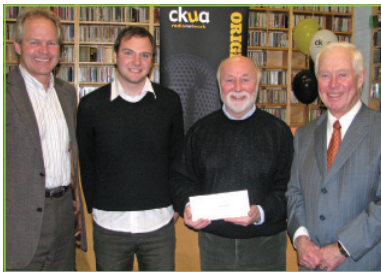
Dr. Bob inspired me to see the greatness in humility, a quality he carries most naturally.
Antonella Bell, Devonian Botanic Garden



Dr. Bob helped us to help our clients fly!
John Wheelwright, Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society



Dr. Bob inspired both me and our students to reach for our dreams and that anything is possible.
Janice Moore, NorQuest College



Dr. Bob has taught me that better communities don't just happen. Things can certainly be improved through people's contributions.
Ken Regan, CKUA Radio Network



Dr. Bob has put his heart in building strong foundations for our community's children.
Germaine Dechant, CASA Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health



Dr. Bob inspired me to "fight the good fight" even when it is difficult, to always be your "best self," and to always give back to my community.
Donna Blundel, Society for Safe and Caring Schools & Communities



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Do you know the muffin woman?

► Metro's food columnist, Emily Richards, shares two very different muffin recipes ► Serve one at breakfast and the other as a dinner side



► You can omit lemon juice and milk and substitute with 1/4 cup (50 mL) buttermilk.

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EMILY RICHARDS
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These scrumptious Double Almond and Chocolate Muffins are packed with essential nutrients to help jump-start your day. Whip up a batch for breakfast or to tuck into lunch bags. With a hint of banana

flavour, they're also perfect with a cup of tea. Up the almond ante by spreading almond butter on a freshly baked muffin.

Preparation:

- 1 In large bowl, combine lemon juice and milk; set aside.
- 2 In another bowl, whisk pastry and almond flour, baking powder and soda, salt and cinnamon; set aside.
- 3 Using electric mixer beat in sugar, egg

whites, oil and whole egg to milk mix; beat at high speed until well blended. Add banana, water and vanilla; beat at low speed until combined. With mixer on low speed, slowly add flour mixture to banana mixture until combined.

- 4 Spray muffin tins with cooking spray and spoon batter into cups. Sprinkle almonds and chocolate chips, if using, over muffins. Bake in 350 F (180 C) oven for 20 minutes or until tester

inserted comes out clean. Let muffins cool in pan for 10 minutes, then remove and cool. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA.**

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE ON EMILY, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA

Ingredients:

- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) lemon juice
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) skim milk
- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) whole-wheat pastry flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) almond flour (ground almonds)
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) baking powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt and ground cinnamon
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 egg whites
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) canola oil
- 1 egg
- 1 cup (250 mL) mashed banana (about 3 medium)
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) water
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) sliced almonds
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chocolate chips (optional)

Broccoli and Cheddar Muffins



These savoury Roasted Broccoli and Cheddar Muffins are the perfect combination of broccoli and cheese.

Roasting the broccoli helps to keep its crisp texture while adding some golden colour.

The muffins are best enjoyed as a snack or as a new twist on the dinner table side dish.

Preparation:

- 1 **Roasted Broccoli:** In bowl, toss together broccoli florets with oil, salt and pepper. Spread onto small parchment paper lined baking sheet or pan. Roast in 400°F (200°C) oven for about 20 minutes or until golden and tender crisp. Let

cool completely. Chop broccoli and set aside.

- 2 Meanwhile, whisk flour, cornmeal, baking powder, baking soda, salt and chili powder.

- 3 In another bowl, whisk together milk, egg and butter. Pour over flour mixture and stir until just combined. Add cheese and roasted broccoli. Stir until distributed evenly.

- 4 Spoon batter among greased muffin tins and bake in 400°F (200°C) for about 15 minutes or until firm to the touch and light golden. Let cool in pan on cooling rack.

● EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) cornmeal
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) chili powder
- 1 cup (250 mL) milk

- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) butter, melted or extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded Old Cheddar cheese

Roasted Broccoli

- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) small broccoli florets
- 2 tsp (10 mL) extra virgin olive oil
- Pinch each salt and pepper

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Employees dismissed for underperformance never go quietly. Often they complain that the cards were stacked against them or that their employer's decision was somehow unfair. But what about an employee who claims he was fired because of discrimination?

Sean Carter tried this card at a recent human rights hearing and learned that proving discrimination is more difficult than he thought.

Carter, a program coordinator at a rehab clinic in Hamilton, Ontario, was injured in a car accident that led to time off from work.

When he returned, Carter felt that he was treated differently at work, claiming that he was disciplined more often and his views were dismissed.

Carter then suffered from stress and depression, which he said resulted from workload and family deaths. His performance deteriorated, and when the clinic tried to manage it, Carter left.

He wrote in cryptically that he was going to see his doctor "for some results" and would be off work for a few weeks. Five days later, he was fired.

Carter complained to the Human Rights Tribunal in Ontario, perhaps



► Failing to clarify your needs to an employer during an illness could lead to complex legal situations should you feel discriminated against after the fact.

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However, instead of finding that Carter was fired for his disability, the Tribunal found that he did not even have one. This is because Carter failed to

show that he even disclosed a medical condition or any medically-related needs to his employer.

Therefore, the Tribunal wrote, Carter's employer had no obligation to accommodate him and his termination was unrelated

to his request for medical leave.

Not every claim for sick leave leads to a "disability" that must be accommodated.

Too many employers accept cryptic doctor's notes without scrutiny and too many employees fail to properly clarify their medical

Taking time off

If you are sick at work or employ someone who is, consider these steps:

- Provide or request written medical authentication of an illness from a treating physician and ensure that the report is comprehensive.
- Meet and discuss accommodation. Employees don't need to disclose their condition, just the fact they have one and need assistance from their employer to remain productive.
- Request or provide modified work. Most jobs can be performed, despite an illness or disability, with reasonable adaptations.

ical needs. Most of the time, both employers and employees are just ignorant of the law.

Digital generation includes old souls

► Young people peeking into the past with vinyl

In most ways, Sarah McCarthy is your average high schooler. She has a job, college plans, but also a peculiar passion for a 16-year-old: She's a vinyl junkie.

Sure, she has an iPod, but she also has a vinyl collection of 250 records and counting.

"Listening to old music remastered to a newer format is almost comical," Sarah said. "They weren't meant to be digitalized. Listening to Jimi Hendrix on my iPod doesn't capture his endlessly deep guitar solos quite like a 33 LP of 'Blues' does."

This girl's in love with vinyl, and she's not the only member of Generation Digital with an ear for analogue.

The uptick in interest over several years includes nostalgic "nerdy superfans" looking for a way around the more sanitized sound of digital. 14-year-old Nick Spates, a Los Angeles eighth grader who plays guitar and



► Sarah McCarthy, right, and her boyfriend Jack Carroll rummage through records in Maryland.

piano, but also savvy young people with Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and a host of obscure post-punk music on their minds.

While the recording industry dukes it out over downloads and mourns the CD, 2.5 million vinyl LPs were sold in 2009, up 33 per cent from the year before. Vinyl sales are a blip among total revenue from U.S. music sales and licensing, but that's a healthy increase in

its own right.

"Young people are leading the way back to analogue through vinyl and turntables," said Matt Melvin, a 22-year-old college senior in Orlando, Fla.

"I think young people are demanding a product that is more tangible, the thrill of hunting through a store for that perfect record, the simple satisfaction of turning that record over." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Doc, pass me the Xbox

► Doctors at a Toronto hospital are banking on video game technology to save time in the operating room

A team at Sunnybrook Hospital has started using the Xbox Kinect, a hands-free gaming console equipped with a motion sensor, to virtually manipulate key medical images during surgery.

The doctors use hand gestures to zoom in and out of the images or freeze a particular shot without leaving the operating table.

Surgeons typically have to leave the sterile field around the patient to pull up images such as MRI or CT scans on a nearby computer.

They then have to go through a meticulous cleanup before returning to the area to make sure they don't bring in any bacteria that could harm the patient.

It can take up to 20 minutes to clean up each time a doctor consults an image, said Dr. Calvin Law,

who helped integrate the technology into the operating room.

Those interruptions sometimes cause more than an hour's delay over the course of a surgery, said Law, a surgical oncologist with the hospital's gastrointestinal cancer team.

"It all adds up," he said. By eliminating those delays, the hospital could save enough time to operate on more patients, he said.

What's more, it would help surgeons stay focused and decrease the risk of contamination by keeping everyone within the sterile field, he said.

Surgeons can ask assistants outside the field to adjust images, but that's "always a little troublesome because of communication," Law said.

He compares the Kinect technology to a car's global positioning system, be-

cause it allows the user to get oriented without stopping.

With better control over the images, surgeons can be more precise, Law said. For a cancer surgeon, that could mean saving more healthy tissue when removing a tumour, he said.

The idea to bring the Kinect into the operating room came from three engineers - Jamie Tremaine, Greg Brigley and Matt Strickland.

Strickland, who doubles as a general surgery resident at the University of Toronto, first spotted the challenges surgeons face in viewing images during surgery, according to Tremaine.

The Kinect seemed like a good solution, he said.

The console is a depth camera, meaning it sees in 3-D. It then creates a digital skeleton of the person captured on camera and



► The use of the Xbox Kinect could vastly improve the time a surgeon takes to perform an operation.

tracks how the skeleton moves. Those motions are translated into commands.

The engineers worked closely with surgeons at Sunnybrook to find command gestures that could be used in the operating room without compromis-

ing surgery procedures, Law said.

The system underwent extensive testing and has been used in surgery six times, Law said. There are plans to roll it out in other parts of the hospital.

So far, Sunnybrook is

believed to be the only hospital using the Kinect, but Tremaine said he and his colleagues are hoping to change that.

They're also looking in to ways to use the technology for physiotherapy.

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He's got an eye for gaming

► Optometrists weigh-in on a manufacturer's warning against gaming under six ► Experts argue consoles could flag hard-to-diagnose eye issues

U.S. eye specialists are welcoming the Nintendo 3DS game device, dismissing the manufacturer's warnings that its 3-D screen shouldn't be used by children six or younger because it may harm their immature vision.

On the contrary, the optometrists say, it's a good idea to get your kids to try the 3-D screen, especially if they're younger than 6. It won't do any harm, they say, and it could help catch vision disorders that have to be caught early to be fixed.

"The 3DS could be a godsend for identifying kids under 6 who need vision therapy," said Michael Duenas, associate director for health sciences and policy for the American Optometric Association.

The new handheld game device is already available in Japan and goes on sale in the U.S. on March 27 for \$250. It has two screens like the DS machines it is designed to replace.

The top screen can show 3D images, without the need for special glasses, though only new games will be in 3-D. A pair of cameras on the 3DS can be used to take 3-D pictures.

If your kid doesn't see the 3-D effect on the 3DS, that's a sign that he or she may have a vision disorder such as amblyopia, or "lazy eye," or subtler problems that can cause problems with reading, Duenas said.

"The 3DS could be a godsend for identifying kids under six who need vision therapy."

MICHAEL DUENAS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Kids who experience dizziness or discomfort should also be checked, he said.

Today's 3-D viewing systems send different images to the right and left eyes, a technique that creates an illusion of depth. But a lot of the cues we use to perceive depth in our environment are missing. That confuses the eyes and accounts for the eyestrain and headaches many people experience watching 3-D movies. Because of that, optometrists say, these systems can help isolate problems that have to do with the way the eyes move, problems that aren't caught by eye charts.

These problems are much easier to fix if caught before age six, when the visual system in our brains is more or less done developing. Only 15 per cent of preschool children get a comprehensive eye exam that could catch these subtle problems, according to the American Optometric Association, the professional group for optometrists. More than half of all juvenile delinquents have undiagnosed

and untreated vision problems, according to studies.

Going to see a 3-D movie or trying a 3D TV can also help screen for problems, but optometrists expect the 3DS to be in front of kids' eyes more.

"This has presented my profession, optometry, a wonderful opportunity," said Joe Ellis, the president of the optometrists' association.

However, optometrists aren't quite seeing eye to eye on this issue with another group of eye specialists: the ophthalmologists,

who are medical doctors. (Optometrists are doctors of optometry but not medical doctors.)

David Hunter, a pediatric ophthalmologist affiliated with the Children's Hospital in Boston and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, said the idea that off-the-shelf 3-D games or movies could help screen for vision problems such as amblyopia is "a little perplexing."

Kids with amblyopia don't have much depth perception in real life, he said, so if they don't see

▶ Vision specialists say the number one health issue associated with console use and computer gaming is obesity, rather than eye problems.

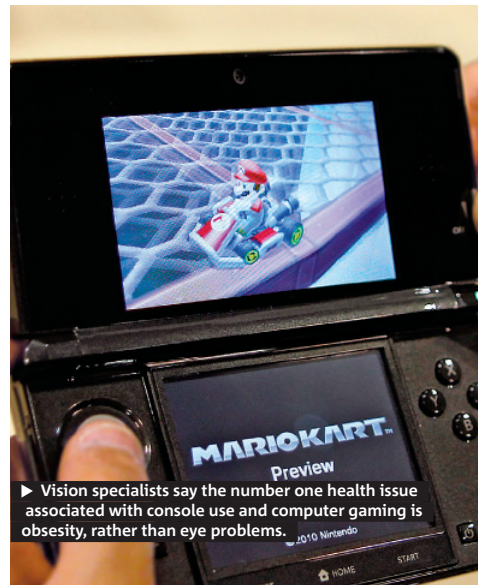
depth in a 3-D screen, they might not say anything because that wouldn't be much different from what they see around them.

It's not impossible that it could help, but it's "all sort of exploration and speculation," said Hunter, who has started a company that's developing a device for childhood screening of

vision disorders.

Nintendo's warning, issued in December, was vaguely worded. It said specialists believe "there is a possibility that 3D images which send different images to the left and right eye could affect the development of vision in small children."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Alexandria Mah works full-time as a Revenue Canada auditor, plays intercollegiate soccer for the NAIT Oaks, and is pursuing both a degree and a CGA credential. She needed a degree program that delivered flexibility and results - and found it in NAIT's Bachelor of Business Administration.

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4 sports

Oilers can't slow Preds' playoff push

► Edmonton manages just 20 shots to drop seventh straight game

David Legwand scored a goal and added an assist as the Nashville Predators beat the Edmonton Oilers 3-1 last night.

Martin Erat and Patric Hornqvist also scored for Nashville, which has won four straight.

The Predators pelted Devan Dubnyk with 15 shots in the first period.

Nashville opened scoring at 4:08 when Joel Ward, on the left side, pulled Dubnyk out of position and hit Erat with a pass as he skated down the right side. Erat put the puck in the open net with a wrist shot from in close.

Hornqvist scored on the power play at the 7:40 mark of the first. Sergei Kostitsyn passed to Hornqvist as he

3	1
PREDATORS	OILERS

skated through the slot. Hornqvist's snap shot hit the left post in.

At the seven-minute mark of the second period, Legwand skated through the slot and beat Dubnyk with a backhand to the stick side.

Edmonton ended Pekka Rinne's shutout at 9:38 of the second on the power play. Jordan Eberle, stationed near the net, scored stick side on a rebound.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Jordan Eberle scores the Oilers' lone goal against Pekka Rinne in Nashville last night.

Sports in brief



1 An MRI yesterday revealed no signs of structural damage to Tim Duncan's sprained left ankle. San Antonio will know later this week how long he might be out.

2 Cliff Lee tossed six innings as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-4 in spring training baseball yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opinion

RYAN KENNEDY
THE HOCKEY NEWS



TRYOUTS FOR NEXT SEASON HAVE BEGUN

Just because the Oilers are mathematically eliminated from playoff contention (and have been for a while), don't think there's nothing to play for in Edmonton.

On the contrary, in another disastrous season, the team must take stock of what it has and what it needs to avoid the basement once again in 2011-12.

That means players are auditioning for next year from here on out. Thanks to injuries, there are a lot of roster spots and plenty of ice time to go around. Edmonton has already called up prospects such as Teemu Hartikainen and Chris Vande Velde to make their NHL debuts, while others have been given opportunities to prove they deserve another contract.

Most prominent among that group is centre Andrew Cogliano, who has benefited from injuries down the middle on the squad. Eligible for restricted free agency in the summer (meaning Edmonton has the right to match any offer), Cogliano has played very well in the month of March.

Offensively he has five points in nine games, an increase on his overall pace for the season, but he's also playing defensively stout hockey, registering a

plus-1 rating. Over the course of the season, he's minus-11. In the past three games, he has also averaged around 21 minutes of ice time per contest — another high for the year. As a player who is continuing to round out, Cogliano will definitely be back in the fold next season, but his recent play may pad his wallet a little more than if he had signed earlier on in the campaign.

Other players will be in a more desperate situation heading into the summer. Centre Alexandre Giroux is definitely in that camp. Brought in as a free agent from Washington's organization, Giroux was a big-time scorer in the American League for Hershey, yet he has never been able to repeat that success at the NHL level. Through seven games with the Oilers this year, he has registered just two points. Down in Oklahoma City, with the Oilers' AHL affiliate, Giroux scored at more than a point-per-game pace. At 29, Giroux's best games have likely been played already. Along with up-and-down pros such as Liam Reddox and Ryan O'Marra, his final games in this NHL season will be of the utmost importance.

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-Philadelphia	72	44	19	4	5	232	195	97	21-10-2-3	23-9-2-2	4-3-1-2	L1
d-Washington	74	43	21	5	5	203	180	96	22-8-2-5	21-13-3-0	9-1-0-0	W2
d-Boston	72	40	22	5	5	217	176	90	17-12-3-2	23-10-2-3	4-4-2-0	W1
Pittsburgh	73	42	23	5	3	213	181	92	22-13-2-2	20-10-3-3	6-2-2-0	W1
Tampa Bay	73	39	23	5	6	216	222	89	22-10-1-4	17-13-4-2	2-4-2-2	L3
Montreal	74	40	27	4	3	200	187	87	22-10-3-3	12-17-1-0	6-4-0-0	L1
NY Rangers	74	40	30	2	2	216	179	84	18-17-1-2	12-17-1-0	7-3-0-0	W5
Buffalo	73	36	28	8	1	216	208	81	16-16-3-1	20-12-5-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Carolina	73	34	29	5	5	205	217	78	20-12-2-2	14-17-3-3	5-4-1-0	W2
Toronto	74	33	31	5	5	195	225	76	17-14-3-1	16-17-2-1	5-4-1-0	W2
Atlanta	72	30	30	5	7	202	237	72	15-14-2-5	15-16-3-2	5-4-1-0	L1
New Jersey	73	34	35	3	1	155	186	72	17-15-2-1	17-20-0-1	6-4-0-0	L1
NY Islanders	74	29	33	7	5	208	234	70	15-17-1-4	13-18-6-1	6-1-2-1	W2
Florida	73	29	34	5	5	182	199	68	15-15-5-4	14-19-0-1	3-4-2-1	L2
Ottawa	73	27	37	5	4	167	227	63	13-19-2-3	14-18-3-1	6-4-0-0	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
y-Vancouver	73	47	17	4	5	238	172	103	25-8-1-4	22-9-3-1	8-2-0-0	L1
d-Detroit	73	43	21	5	4	237	209	95	19-11-3-3	24-10-2-1	4-3-2-1	L2
d-San Jose	73	42	23	4	4	211	191	92	20-11-2-3	22-12-2-1	5-9-0-2	W3
Phoenix	74	39	24	7	4	213	207	89	17-12-4-2	22-12-3-2	6-3-1-0	L1
Los Angeles	73	41	26	4	2	199	177	88	22-12-3-4	20-14-1-2	6-2-2-0	W1
Nashville	74	39	25	6	4	193	174	88	20-14-2-5	19-15-1-1	7-2-1-0	W4
Chicago	72	39	25	5	3	224	203	86	22-14-0-0	17-11-4-4	6-2-3-1	W1
Anaheim	72	40	27	3	2	204	208	85	23-12-1-1	17-15-2-1	8-2-0-0	W3
Dallas	72	38	25	3	6	203	202	85	20-11-2-5	18-14-1-1	5-2-2-1	L1
Calgary	75	37	27	4	7	199	223	77	22-12-1-3	15-15-3-4	4-4-1-1	L2
Minnesota	74	35	31	3	5	185	207	77	17-15-2-3	18-16-1-2	2-6-2-0	L7
Columbus	73	33	29	4	7	199	223	77	16-16-1-3	17-13-3-4	2-4-1-3	L2
St. Louis	72	32	31	4	5	201	214	73	20-12-1-3	12-19-3-2	4-4-0-0	L2
Colorado	72	28	36	7	1	203	254	64	15-17-4-0	13-19-3-1	2-7-0-1	W2
Edmonton	73	23	40	2	8	176	240	56	12-20-1-4	11-20-2-3	3-5-1-1	L7

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division title; d — division leaders; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL or SOL columns.

Last night's results

Toronto 3 Minnesota 0
Nashville 3 Edmonton 1
Carolina 4 Ottawa 3
Buffalo 2 Montreal 0
Colorado 5 Columbus 4 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 1 Florida 0
Boston 4 New Jersey 1
Washington 5 Philadelphia 4 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 5 Tampa Bay 2
St. Louis at Phoenix

Monday's results

Pittsburgh 5 Detroit 4 (OT)
Los Angeles 2 Calgary 1 (SO)
Tonight's games

MAPLE LEAFS 3, WILD 0

First Period
1. Toronto, Lupul 10 (Bozak, Kessel) 1:39
Penalties — Nystrom Min (goaltender interference) 4:01, Cullen Min (boarding) 12:21, Brent Tor (interference) 13:06, Bouchard Min (tripping) 18:20.
Second Period
2. Toronto, Grabovski 28 (MacArthur, Kulemin) 11:20
Penalties — Gunnarsson Tor (tripping) 1:12, Brunette Min (hooking) 2:07, Stoner Min (cross-checking) 4:04, Schenn Tor (hooking) 7:04, Kadri Tor (tripping) 13:18.
Third Period
3. Toronto, Gunnarsson 4 (Grabovski, Kulemin) 2:13 (pp)
Penalties — Koivu Min (high-sticking) 1:35, Aulie Tor (interference) 7:06, Grabovski Tor (slashing), Zanon Min (roughing) 15:39, Aulie Tor (high-sticking) 17:14, Lashoff Tor (cross-checking) 19:21.

Shots
Toronto 8 3 6 —19
Minnesota 7 11 11 —27
Goal — Toronto: Reimer (W16-7-4); Minnesota: Backstrom (L21-20-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Toronto: 1-6; Minnesota: 0-7.
Referees — Brad Meier, Dean Morton. **Linesmen** — Brian Mach, Darren Gibbins.
Att. — 18,761 (18,064) at St. Paul, Minn.

PREDATORS 3, OILERS 1

First Period
1. Nashville, Erat 15 (Ward, Legwand) 4:08
2. Nashville, Hornqvist 19 (Kostitsyn, Suter) 7:40 (pp)
Penalty — Foster Edm (tripping) 7:06.
Second Period

All times Eastern

Vancouver at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Calgary at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Montreal at Boston, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

3. Nashville, Legwand 14 (Suter, Weber) 7:00
4. Edmonton, Eberle 17 (Cogliano, Vandermeer) 9:38 (pp)
Penalties — Kostitsyn Nash (tripping) 8:45, Franson Nash (interference) 11:49.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Peckham Edm (tripping) 4:39, O'Marra Edm (hooking) 10:53, Fisher Nash (tripping) 15:15.

Shots
Edmonton 5 7 8 —20
Nashville 15 5 10 —30
Goal — Edmonton: Dubnyk (L10-12-7); Nashville: Rinne (W18-20-8). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Edmonton: 1-3; Nashville: 1-3.
Referees — Stephane Auger, Eric Furlatt.
Linesmen — Mark Wheeler, Brad Kovachik.
Att. — 15,745 (17,113) at Nashville.

HURRICANES 4, SENATORS 3

First Period
1. Ottawa, Greening 3 (Spezza, Butler) 7:56
2. Ottawa, Svatos 2 (Condra, Hale) 13:40
3. Carolina, Ruutu 18 (Jokinen, Skinner) 14:07
4. Carolina, LaRose 14 (Pitkanen) 14:32
Penalties — Karlsson Ott (interference) 3:02, Stillman Car (goaltender interference) 3:58, Corvo Car (hooking) 18:32, Kuba Ott (interference) 18:51, Pitkanen Car (roughing) 19:54.
Second Period
5. Carolina, LaRose 15 (Bra-Sutter, Gleason) 18:17
Penalties — S.Zmish Ott (tripping) 5:33, Neil Ott (roughing) 8:33, Allen Car (tripping) 13:36.
Third Period
6. Carolina, Stillman 10 (E.Staal, Cole) 6:04
7. Ottawa, Karlsson 13 (Spezza, Foligno) 14:16
Penalties — None.
Shots

Ottawa 11 18 10 —39
Carolina 7 11 6 —24
Goal — Ottawa: McElhinney (L9-11-1); Carolina: Ward (W11-24-9). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 0-4; Carolina: 0-3.
Referees — Ghislain Hebert, Kelly Sutherland.
Linesmen — Andy McElman, Scott Cherrey.
Att. — 16,189 (18,680) at Raleigh, N.C.

SABRES 2, CANADIENS 0

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Boyes Buf (tripping) 5:10, Gill Mtl (tripping) 7:50, Subban Mtl (interference) 11:53.
Second Period
1. Buffalo, Gerbe 12 (Myers, Sekera) 8:56
Penalties — Mara Mtl (cross-checking) 2:09, Vanek Buf (goaltender interference) 3:13, P-Lard Mtl (tripping) 5:00.

Third Period
2. Buffalo, Gerbe 13, 19:38 (en)
Penalty — Wisniewski Mtl (hooking) 7:53.
Shots
Buffalo 9 10 5 —24
Montreal 12 10 9 —31

Goal — Buffalo: Miller (W31-21-8); Montreal: Price (L34-25-6). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Buffalo: 0-5; Montreal: 0-2.
Referees — Marc Joannette, Wes McCauley.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Michel Cormier.
Att. — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
D.Sedin, Vcr	38	55	93
Stamkos, TB	43	43	86
H.Sedin, Vcr	18	68	86
St. Louis, TB	26	59	85
Perry, Ana	39	40	79
Ovechkin, Wash	29	48	77
Zetterberg, Det	21	52	73
Toures, Chi	30	42	72
Kopitar, LA	25	47	72
Iginla, Cal	33	38	71
Sharp, Chi	34	34	68
B.Richards, Dal	25	42	67
Selanne, Ana	22	45	67
Crosby, Psh	32	34	66
C.Giroux, Pha	23	43	66
Nash, Chi	31	34	65
Kesler, Vcr	36	28	64
E.Staal, Vcr	29	35	64
P.Kane, Chi	24	39	63
Eriksson, Dal	23	40	63
J.Carter, Pha	33	29	62

Last night's games not included

SCORER

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
D.C. United	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Kansas City	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
New York	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Philadelphia	1	1	0	0	1	1	3
Chicago	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
New England	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Toronto	1	0	1	0	2	4	0
Columbus	1	0	1	0	1	3	0
Houston	1	0	1	0	0	1	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
Los Angeles	2	1	0	1	2	1	4
Vancouver	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Colorado	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Real Salt Lake	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Dallas	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Chivas USA	1	0	1	0	2	3	0
Portland	1	0	1	0	1	3	0
San Jose	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Seattle	2	0	2	0	0	2	0

Note: 3 points for victory, 1 point for tie.

Friday's game

All times Eastern
Houston at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Portland at Toronto, 2 p.m.
New York at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago, 4 p.m.
Vancouver at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
D.C. United at New England, 4:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Chivas USA, 10:30 p.m.

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Yesterday's results
Philadelphia 5, Toronto 4
Tampa Bay 7 Boston 4
Baltimore 6, N.Y. Yankees 2
N.Y. Mets 7, Detroit 4
Oakland 10 Cincinnati 8
Seattle 9 Chicago White Sox 5
Washington 3, Houston 1
Florida 3, Minnesota 0
Milwaukee 7 San Diego 0
L.A. Dodgers 2 Chicago Cubs 1 (10 inn.)
Cleveland 7 Arizona 3
L.A. Angels 4 Kansas City 6
Today's games
All times Eastern
NYM vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Phila. vs. T.B. at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Houston vs. Pitt. at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Florida vs. Atl. at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Oakland vs. Chi. Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Arizona vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. S.D. at Peoria, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
K.C. vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
LAD vs. CWS at Glendale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
San Fran. vs. LAA at Tempe, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Balt. vs. Minn. at Fort Myers, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. NYY at Tampa, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
Seattle vs. Colo. at Scottsdale, Ariz., 9:40 p.m.

CURLING

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

At Esbjerg, Denmark
Country (skip)
Sweden (Norberg) 6 1
Switzerland (Ott) 5 2
Canada (Holland) 4 3
China (B.Wang) 4 3
Denmark (Nielsen) 4 3
Russia (Privivkova) 4 3
Germany (A.Schopp) 3 4
Norway (Githmark) 3 4
Scotland (Sloan) 3 4
U.S. (Lank) 3 4
Czech Rep. (Kubelkova) 2 5
South Korea (Kim) 1 6
Yesterday's results
Ninth Draw
Canada 7 Czech Republic 4
China 8 Scotland 2
Germany 7 Norway 3
Sweden 8 Denmark 3
Draw 10
Denmark 8 Norway 3
Sweden 7 Germany 5
Switzerland 9 Russia 7
U.S. 8 South Korea 6
Draw 11
Canada 9 U.S. 6
Russia 8 Scotland 6
South Korea 11 Czech Republic 2
Switzerland 7 China 6 (extra end).

Today's games
Draw 12
Russia vs. Germany; Sweden vs. Switzerland; Denmark vs. South Korea; Norway vs. U.S.
Draw 13
South Korea vs. Scotland; China vs. U.S.; Russia vs. Czech Republic; Switzerland vs. Canada.
Draw 14
Sweden vs. Canada; Germany vs. Czech Rep.; China vs. Norway; Denmark vs. Scotland.

GOLF
PGA FEDEX CUP LEADERS

Through March 20	Points Money	YTD
1. Mark Wilson	1,086	\$2,268,825
2. Nick Watney	960	\$2,278,000
3. Gary Woodland	945	\$1,850,064
4. Rory Sabbatini	820	\$1,573,194
5. Jonathon Vegas	791	\$1,479,510
6. Bubba Watson	763	\$1,667,417
7. D.A. Points	737	\$1,538,207
8. Luke Donald	718	\$1,807,800
9. Jonathan Byrd	705	\$1,404,148
87. Stephen Ames	142	\$254,243

TENNIS

WTA SONY ERICSSON OPEN

At Key Biscayne, Fla.
Women's Singles — First Round
Melanie Oudin, U.S., def. Julia Georges, Germany, 7-5, 6-3.
Neta Benesova, Czech Republic, def. Roberta Vinci, Italy, 7-5, 6-4.
Elena Baltacha, Britain, def. Sybille Bammer, Austria, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Bojana Janovskij, Serbia, 6-1, 7-6 (2).
Zheng Jie, China, def. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3.
Patty Schnyder, Switzerland, def. Madison Keys, U.S., 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (2).
Petra Martic, Croatia, def. Kristina Barrois, Germany, 7-5, 6-2.
Simona Halep, Romania, def. Urszula Radwanska, Poland, 6-3, 6-2.
Johanna Larsson, Sweden, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Ayumi Morita, Japan, def. Heather Watson, Britain, 7-5, 6-2.
Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, def. Vera Dushkevina, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.
Sabine Lisicki, Germany, def. Melinda Czink, Hungary, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

BASKETBALL

NCAA TOURNAMENT

All times Eastern
Regional Semifinals
EAST REGION
Friday's games
North Carolina (28-7) vs. Marquette (22-14), 7 p.m.
Ohio State (34-2) vs. Kentucky (27-8), 9:30 p.m.
SOUTHEAST REGION
Tomorrow's games
Florida (28-7) vs. BYU (32-4), 7:15 pm
Butler (25-9) vs. Wisconsin (25-8), 9:55 pm
SOUTHWEST REGION
Friday's games
Kansas (34-2) vs. Richmond (29-7), 7:15 pm
Florida State (23-10) vs. Virginia Commonwealth (26-11), 9:55 p.m.
WEST REGION
Tomorrow's games
San Diego State (34-2) vs. Connecticut (28-9), 7 p.m.
Duke (32-4) vs. Arizona (29-7), 9:30 pm

LACROSSE

NLL

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Toronto	11	9	2	.818	132	101	—
Buffalo	10	7	3	.700	110	93	1y/
Boston	11	6	5	.545	117	102	3
Rochester	10	5	5	.500	93	107	3y/
Philadelphia	11	4	7	.364	99	125	5

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L
--	----	---	---

5 drive

By comparison

Audi TTS roadster

Base price: \$54,500
Four-wheel-drive soft-top sticks to four-cylinder turbo engine choices.



BMW Z4

Base price: \$55,000
Recent facelift has this "Bimmer" looking and acting better than ever.



Infiniti G37

Base price: \$60,200
Two + two folding hardtop model comes with 325-hp V6 plus plenty of extras.



WHEELBASE MEDIA

Engine

The starting-point engine is a V6, but it will initially be the 302-horsepower 3.5-litre unit for the SLK 350. Mercedes-Benz reports that the V6 SLK will sprint to 96 km/h in 5.6 seconds.

Later in the model year — likely early 2012 — a new base-model SLK250 is expected, sporting a 201-horsepower turbocharged 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine that replaces the outgoing 228-horsepower 3.0-litre V6.

Magic Sky Control

The SLK's signature lightweight power-retractable hardtop returns for the 2012 model year, but you can now opt for a panoramic glass roof that can be ordered with "Magic Sky Control."

With the press of a button, the glass can be changed from a dark tint to clear, depending on the time of day or to suit your personal preference.

Spruced-up interior

Coming in for some sprucing up is the SLK's interior that showcases a new flat-bottom steering wheel, plenty of brushed aluminum trim on the centre console, plus four oversized chromed air vents that don't quite seem to fit with the car's otherwise restrained cabin design.

Optional are special leather coverings that keep the seats cooler by reflecting the sun's rays.



BASE PRICE:
\$60,000

► It's the least expensive Mercedes-Benz convertible, but do you really need much more than the SLK to make a statement while enjoying the open air?

Feel good and look good in this drop-top



MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

With 110 years of sports-car history in its back pocket, Mercedes-Benz has learned a thing or two about what makes these cars and their proud owners tick.

And this vast experience is packed into the 2012 SLK roadster that's due to arrive this summer.

Style and substance are necessary ingredients for any sports car, but, for Mercedes-Benz, how the vehicle

makes you feel and how others see you behind the wheel are perhaps treated with equal importance.

SLK customers will likely feel and look particularly good with this third-generation drop-topper. As well, anyone approaching the SLK from afar will instantly notice the dominating three-pointed star affixed to the grille. In fact, they might even mistake the SLK for the similar-looking SL or even the SLS AMG relations that cost considerably

SLK-Class

What you should know about the 2012 Mercedes-Benz SLK-Class:

- **Type:** Two-door luxury hardtop convertible.
- **Engine (hp):** 1.8-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (201); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (302)
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual (std., 1.8), Seven-speed automatic (opt. with 1.8, std. with 3.5).
- **Market Position:** The SLK is the starting point in a trio of impressive sports cars that tops out with the \$200,000 SLS AMG.
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 11.6/8.0 (3.5, est.)

more.

The king-size Mercedes-Benz logo is part of a larger and more upright grille,

one-piece lower air intake and enlarged all-LED (Light Emitting Diode) headlamps that provides the illusion

that the SLK is much lower and wider than its predecessor.

There's no word yet regarding the return of a high-performance AMG version, so for now the fuel-sipping four-cylinder and more mainstream V6 will have to do.

However, for SLK drivers it's how you arrive that's just as important as how rapidly you arrive. Either way, you're practically guaranteed to get there with a smile.

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[illegible]

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2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland shown.⁵

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- Quadra-Trac I® 4-Wheel Drive System
- More than 45 Safety & Security Features



NEW FEATURES FOR THE 2011 MODEL



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**Uconnect™ System with
Optional Garmin GPS**



**New Premium Interior
(Overland model shown)**



Keyless Enter-N-Go

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TWO AND A HALF CANADIAN SUPERCARS

Auto Pilot

MIKE GOETZ

DRIVE@METRONews.CA



You're shopping for a mid-engine supercar with carbon-fibre construction and at least 750 horsepower — and it must be designed and built in Canada. How many options do you have?

Would you believe, "two and a half?" Do you not find that weird? Weird that the answer is not zero ... Weird that Charlie Sheen keeps cropping up no matter what you start talking about.

One of the cars on the list is the Plethore LC-750 designed and built in St-Eustache, Que. We've been aware of the LC-750 for some time (and spoken about it in this space before), because the man behind the car, Luc Chartrand, started working on this car about 10 years ago.

It has been making the rounds of Canadian auto shows this season, in production-ready trim,

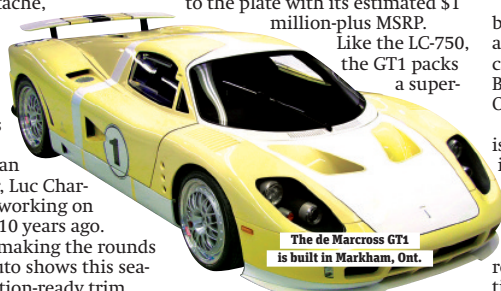
and the company is now in a position to start delivering examples — at \$450,000 each.

So that's option "one." Option "two" is the de Marcross GT1. The de Marcross Motors Corporation (DMMC) was founded by Jahong Hur, a successful Korean businessman with family ties to GS Group, one of Korea's largest conglomerates. DMMC, with administrative offices in Vancouver, intends to build several de Marcross models, in addition to this just-introduced GT1 flagship.

Hur styled, conceived and bankrolled the car, but it was engineered and built by Multimatic, of Markham, Ont.

Multimatic also created production tooling, so it can build more GT1s — if anyone steps up to the plate with its estimated \$1 million-plus MSRP.

Like the LC-750, the GT1 packs a super-



The de Marcross GT1 is built in Markham, Ont.



The HTT Plethore LC-750 is made in St-Eustache, Que.

charged V8. The GT1's chassis tub is carbon fibre, but its body panels, and front and rear substructures are aluminum (the LC-750 is all carbon fibre and/or composite material).

Multimatic engineers and builds auto parts; its list of automaker clients includes practically everybody — from Ford to BMW to Aston Martin to Formula One racing teams.

Which brings us to why there is a "half" option, when considering Canadian-made carbon-fibre supercars.

In conjunction with its U.K. engineering facility, Multimatic has engineered the complete rolling chassis of the Aston Martin One-77 — a super-exclusive \$2

million supercar (only 77 will be built).

Multimatic also constructs the One-77's state-of-the-art carbon fibre chassis structure right at its Markham, Ont. facility.

We had a quick tour of where the Aston tubs are built up and it looks more like a fabric enterprise than a typical body shop, as technicians cut and layer the raw sheets of carbon fibre. We also saw the big oven, where finished tubs are baked to perfection.

So take that, Tim Hortons. You may bake more units than Plethora and Multimatic, but these guys have it all over you when it comes to high tech and structural stiffness.

Spring has sprung, so will your wallet follow as well?

For Canadians, spring is all about getting warm, getting out there, and for some, getting a new vehicle.

If hitting the open road in a new or used vehicle is on your horizon this spring, take your time, compare prices, makes and models and really think about what you want in a vehicle. Here are some vehicle purchasing tips from the Canadian Consumer Handbook (consumerhandbook.ca).

It is produced by the federal, provincial and territorial governments and offers helpful and reliable information truly focused on the consumer. ● NEWS CANADA

Need vs. want

Think with your head, not your inner sports car driver. What do you really need in a vehicle? What distances and road conditions do you typically travel? Do you travel empty or loaded with gear? Is energy efficiency important to you?

Deal or no deal

Choosing the right dealership is very important. Take time to shop for a dealer whose policies are right for you and always comparison shop. No two dealers are alike.

1/2

Canadian Black Book research shows that over one-half of Canadian drivers have been holding onto their cars longer than in the past. Economic reasons are cited as the main cause.

Options are optional

Beware of dealers wanting to sell you vehicles fully loaded with options; they can really increase the cost. You can pick and choose the options you want but when you buy near the end of the model year (typically late spring or summer) you may not be able to get all of your choices, such as a specific colour.

Leasing vs. buying

Take the time to compare both ownership options before you make your final decision. The difference in interest rates and down payments from different lenders may surprise you. Whatever you decide, make sure you fully understand all details of your contract, especially the total cost of financing over the terms of the loan or lease.

Beware of lemons

Always have an independent mechanic inspect a used vehicle before you buy it. Research its history for accidents. If you think you may have bought a lemon (a vehicle with a manufacturer's defect), check with your provincial or territorial consumer affairs office to see if they can help. While there are no "lemon laws" in Canada, there are measures in place to help you. The Office of Consumer Affairs offers tips for consumers who may have bought a defective vehicle at ic.gc.ca/consumers.

©2010 Porsche Cars Canada Ltd. Porsche recommends seat belt usage and observance of all traffic laws at all times. Optional equipment shown is extra.



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Introducing all four models in the revolutionary new Cayenne family — the 2011 Cayenne, Cayenne S, Cayenne Turbo, and the remarkable Cayenne S Hybrid. For our engineers, nothing was off-limits except the spirit behind the Porsche crest. Lightweight construction cuts weight by up to 185 kg. An auto start/stop function, Direct Fuel Injection (DFI), and a new 8-speed Tiptronic S transmission reduce fuel consumption by up to 23% (NEDC*), while raising Cayenne performance to remarkable new heights. This is what happens when engineers have free reign.

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PORSCHE

*Based on 2010 New European Driving Cycle data. Transport Canada fuel consumption figures are not available and may vary.

Ford is exploring new paths

► Keeping a famous brand from biting the dust means a whole new approach to the modern-day “off-roader”



JEFF MELNYCHUK
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

How does a vehicle that was once the darling of suburbia go from hero to zero? You need to know the answer to that question before trying to revive it.

Ford says the one key reason that the Explorer sport utility vehicle fell out of favour is fuel economy, the very same issue that has ravaged the coveted and highly profitable sport utility ranks in the past couple of years.

If it's not the price of fuel, it's not knowing what it will cost tomorrow. That uncertainty has buyers cutting their losses and heading for the relative safety of more fuel-efficient vehicles, which are generally smaller because weight (and therefore size) are the enemy of economy. They're getting out of sport utes.

The Explorer, like many others, lost out by virtue of



► This is about as “off-road” as it gets for most drivers, so the focus of the New Explorer is a much-improved overall experience at the expense of extreme boulder hopping. It's Ford's recipe for resurrecting the brand.

not changing with the times and buyer needs. So, how could the Explorer brand of chunky and thirsty offroaders be successfully transformed into a model citizen without losing all its Explorer-ness?

Clearly, any attempt at resurrection would begin with a relatively blank com-

puter screen to meet new goals of fuel economy.

As it turns out, there was no new magic engine, but rather a raft of changes that led to a claimed 22-per-cent improvement over the previous model while boosting horsepower by nearly 40 per cent.

The new Explorer ditch-

es the previous 210-horsepower 4.0-litre V6 for a 290-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 and a new six-speed automatic transmission. Improved aerodynamics, electric power steering, a slight weight savings and a drastically changed 4x4 system all contribute to the fuel savings. A turbocharged four-cyl-



► An information centre flanks the central speedometer of the Ford Explorer.

Big-4 settings

► The 2011 Explorer has four driver-selectable settings (from snow to sand) based on conditions. They're controlled by sensors providing wheel-slip and steering-input information to the on-board computer to provide the best traction and safety.

der engine will be available on front-wheel-drive versions.

That's right, a front-wheel-drive Explorer — with a claimed fuel-economy improvement of 30 per

cent over the old 4.0 — which is what Ford has deemed must happen to kick-start the brand.

But what about the off-road part? Clearly, if hardcore off-roading was crucial to a large percentage of Explorer aficionados — and not two per cent as indicated by Ford — then sales likely wouldn't have declined so dramatically in the first place. What apparently really matters is general driving safety and security in more common situations/seasons with the occasional foray through deep mud, sand or snow. These are situations that register with most drivers.

Much thought goes into car colours

For many people, the final deciding factor on a car is its colour. The palette of available shades may seem arbitrary, but in reality, the decision on what colours to offer is an integral part of a car's design.

Fashion trends, consumer preferences and even the limitations of the assembly line all play a role, says Michelle Killen, lead exterior paint designer for General Motors.

She uses market re-

DRIVING FORCE

JILL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

search, looks at the competition, and attends “trend shows” put on by paint suppliers to determine what colours you'll see next.

“If we're designing a new colour for a full-size truck, we look for activities such

as outdoorsman or canoeing and see what will influence the products that will be used,” Killen says. “If kayaks or hiking bags have a bright orange, we'll pull that.”

She works with paint suppliers, identifying traits that she wants in the paint and tweaking the colour to get the shade she wants.

“Maybe we want slightly more green, or to lighten the colour, and it goes back and forth,” she says. “We

have to decide if we want it to be a solid paint, or if it's metallic, do we want it to be subtle or extravagant.”

Killen faces several other challenges, including the fact that she's working four years in advance of the car coming to the showroom, and that auto plants are limited in how many colours the assembly line can handle.

“It depends on the plant, but on average, we have between 10 and 12 colours,”

Extra costs

► Some colours cost extra, mostly because of paint cost and complexity. Three-coat metallic paints put a layer of

metal flake in the middle to improve its sparkle, while tint-coat paint adds pigment to the top coat, which is normally clear, to create a greater depth of colour.

Killen says. “After your seven core colours, you have a small window and all of these great colours, and trying to decide what you're going to put in there is one of the trickier parts.”

Once a colour is developed, it's painted onto a vehicle and assessed. It's not uncommon for a colour to miss the mark on one mod-

el but look great on another, and shades can get switched around.

As well, test cars get parked in Florida for two years, to confirm that the paint won't fade or crack in the sun.

Overall, North Americans are conservative: the top colours are white, black, silver, grey and red.

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Performance to price ratio is nice

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SECOND GEAR



JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONWS.CA

Launched in 2003 to a primarily Japanese-dominated market of affordable performance cars, the Dodge SRT4 had a simple goal: delivering the ultimate performance in its class.

Effectively a tweaked-up Neon with a 230-horsepower turbocharged punch and various chassis and cosmetic upgrades, the SRT4 was designed to deliver top levels of styling, acceleration and handling. Shoppers can look for up to 230 horsepower, as well as a limited slip differential and larger fuel injectors on 2004 and 2005 models. All models got a five-speed manual

What's the 4-1-1

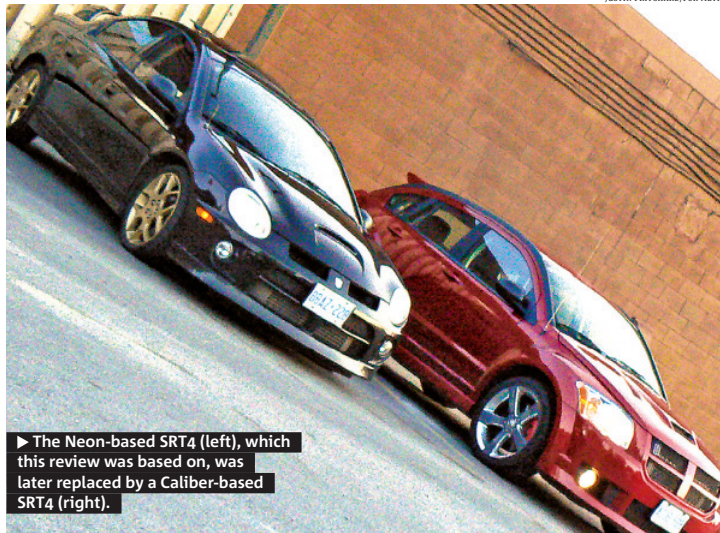
- **Model:** 2003 to 2005 Dodge SRT4
- **Vehicle Type:** Compact performance sedan
- **Approximate used price range:** \$6,500 to \$12,000

transmission.

Don't miss the large spoiler, dual exhaust, lowered suspension and hood scoop, either. Ultimately, the SRT4 was as mean looking as the googly-eyed Neon ever looked.

Those shoppers prioritizing maximum speed and power for their money won't be disappointed. Look for bolstered sport seats, power front windows (the rear windows were manual) a sunroof and an upgraded audio system.

Many SRT4 owners take to online forums to show off their rides, discuss up-



► The Neon-based SRT4 (left), which this review was based on, was later replaced by a Caliber-based SRT4 (right).

grades and bash imported sports cars. As a result, there's a huge online community and plenty of resources available for new owners.

What Owners Like

Looks, power output, performance, handling and relative attainability are all

strong points of the SRT4 as stated by owners. Those into aftermarket customization also love the slew of available add-ons in the marketplace.

What Owners Hate

Some owners report that the sport seats are too narrow, stiff and unforgiving

on long trips. Others wish for a more premium look and feel to the cabin, a more comfortable and quiet ride, and a quieter exhaust system.

Note that performance enthusiasts typically accept the SRT4's refinement compromises, given its

performance-to-price ratio.

Common Issues

Chrysler had been producing the Neon for years before its evil twin was released, and they've got plenty of experience with turbocharged engines, too. As such, the SRT4 appears to offer above-average reliability in a used sports model. Your writer's research, perhaps surprisingly, revealed no glaring issues, recalls or major concerns.

Of course, standard used sports-car shopping rules still apply. Mainly, be weary of a used SRT4 that's had obvious modifications performed.

Don't forget to check the condition of the engine oil and expendables like brake pads, the clutch, and tires. A trip to a dealer mechanic may be in order to give the car the once over for peace of mind.

The Verdict

A well-priced, healthy and un-modified Dodge SRT4 should reliably provide budget velocity and killer looks for years to come.

TRUCK CENTER

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 2008 F-350 CREW CAB DUALY #R00868A. KING RANCH DIESEL Was \$52,995 NOW \$46,995	 2008 RAM 1500 Q/C #R01616A. Was \$29,995 NOW \$25,995 OR \$205/BW	 2008 DODGE DAKOTA Q/C #B50344. Was \$24,995 NOW \$20,995 OR \$165/BW
 2007 RAM 2500 POWER WAGON #G10146A. LOW KMS. Was \$34,995 NOW \$29,995 OR \$235/BW	 2010 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED #G015722. BRAND NEW Was \$36,975 NOW \$48,500 OR \$329/BW	 2007 DODGE RAM 1500 #R00842A NOW \$19,877

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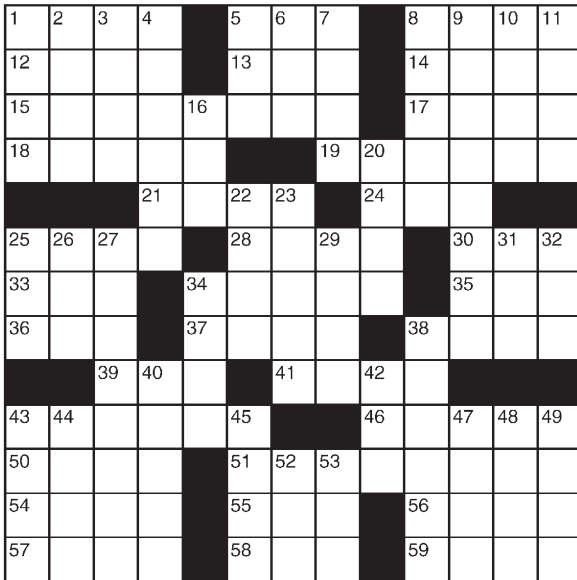
Crossword

Across

- 1 Safe-cracker
- 5 Collection
- 8 Memo acronym
- 12 Seed coat
- 13 In favour of
- 14 Sitarist Shankar
- 15 Soldierly
- 17 Radar screen noise
- 18 Defense grp., 1954-77
- 19 Mate
- 21 Gear teeth
- 24 Illustrations
- 25 Morse "T"
- 28 Dryer fluff
- 30 Rd.
- 33 — Khan
- 34 Tarzan's transportation
- 35 Carnival city
- 36 There
- 37 Mountain goat
- 38 Blue shade
- 39 "This — recording"
- 41 Celebrity
- 43 Nursery item
- 46 Labour camp
- 50 Birthright barter
- 51 Pertaining to funds
- 54 Swiss city
- 55 Rage
- 56 Despot
- 57 Emulates Simon
- 58 Ball-bearing item
- 59 Blood (Pref.)

Down

- 1 Thanksgiving sides
- 2 Great Lake
- 3 River to the Col-

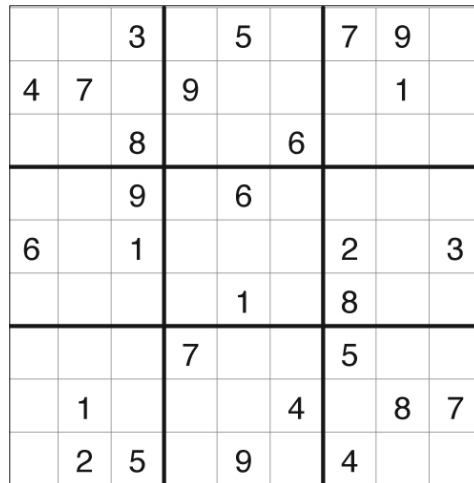


- orado
- 4 Slight snafu
- 5 Resort
- 6 Mess up
- 7 Santa's sackful
- 8 Lattice-work shelter
- 9 Healthful
- 10 Hertz rival
- 11 Prop for Sherlock
- 16 As well
- 20 Butter servings
- 22 Smooth-talking
- 23 Trig functions
- 25 Rotation duration
- 26 Past
- 27 Very clean
- 29 On deck
- 31 Through
- 32 A long time
- 34 Test tube
- 38 Broken-leg aid
- 40 Stupefies
- 42 Candle count
- 43 CSA soldiers
- 44 On the briny
- 45 Send out
- 47 Lounge about
- 48 Composer Khachaturian
- 49 Pita sandwich
- 52 Raw mineral
- 53 Born

► Yesterday's answer



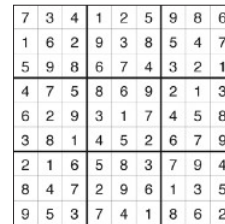
Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

► Yesterday's answer



A look at the weather



Michele McDougall Weather Specialist

"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes". WEEKDAYS 6AM



Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You like to be on the winning side and there's not much doubt you will be today. Remember though, winning isn't everything. If you get the chance to help someone else win, that will make you feel as good.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Decide on a course of action and stick to it. The more you chop and change, the more likely it is your efforts will fall short and leave you feeling as if you have wasted your time.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If someone says something about you that is obviously not true today, you must not get angry. It will annoy him or her more if you pretend that you are not in the least bit upset.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Someone in a position of authority will ask you to team up with someone you don't really get along with today. Chances are, it is more of an order than a request. Make it work.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 If you allow others to distract you today, chances are you won't get much done. That would be a shame as you have so much going for you now. You cannot afford to be sidetracked by petty issues or petty people.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 You seem to be under divine protection at the moment, but that is not an invitation to act recklessly. By all means take a few risks but make sure they are risks you can handle.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Why are you holding back from trying something new? Could it be your sixth sense warning you of dangers ahead? Yes, it could, so be careful. But don't stop altogether.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Take control of your current situation and don't let other people decide what you'll do or how you'll do it. As a Scorpio, you don't need to care what the world thinks.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 There is good and bad in every person. If you keep that in mind today, you are less likely to get caught in one of those "I'm right, you're wrong" shouting matches that don't solve anything.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Be ready to ditch what you don't need so that what you do need has room to come in your life. Don't be sentimental about material possessions.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You're not the sort to let other people's doubts hold you back. That's just as well because you will encounter some negative reactions today. What you are planning is not doomed. It will be a success.

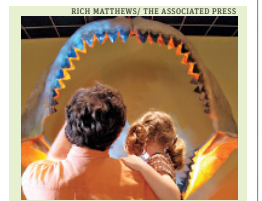
♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You may not want to rock the boat but you know that something needs to be done to shake certain people out of their slumber. Aim to inject energy into what has become just another routine. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest



WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



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